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NEWS RELEASE HOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SHED LIGHT ON ENERGY USE

Households on low incomes can now benefit from practical help to understand and manage their power bills thanks to a new initiative from Origin and UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide through the Adelaide Solar City project (ASC).

The Home Energy Assistance Program* has been developed to help households on low incomes, in particular new arrivals to Australia, to understand more about energy, and encourage them to be more energy efficient to help save money on their power bills.

The free service will be available to 450 eligible households in the Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully, Playford and Adelaide council areas.

The Home Energy Assistance Program will be unveiled today at Salisbury's Northern Area Migrant Resource Centre by Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP.

Participants in the Program will have an energy advisor from UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide assist them to analyse, understand and manage their energy consumption and power bills. They will also receive energy saving devices to use in the home.

The energy advisor will make home visits and can help households identify opportunities for using less energy. Information about financial and social support services will also be made available to participants in the program if required.

ASC Program Manager Dario De Bortoli said the initiative will provide households on low income, including new arrivals, with essential knowledge and skills regarding energy usage that many people take for granted.

"The Home Energy Assistance initiative is about sharing knowledge and practices and ensuring new arrivals have the opportunity to learn about energy usage and how to reduce their impact on the environment," said Mr De Bortoli.

UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide Chief Executive Simon Schrapel said that the program provides valuable support for those who may struggle when they first arrive in Australia.

"Being able to manage a household budget is a fundamental aspect of everyday life. To do this as a new arrival can be daunting and especially challenging if English is not your first language," said Mr Schrapel.

"The Home Energy Assistance Program is an excellent initiative that not only seeks to educate people but also to reassure them that there is help available and that they don't need to struggle alone."

Households taking part in the Program will help further research into household energy use and the practical benefits of energy assessments to households.

The six-member Adelaide Solar City consortium, led by Origin, includes ANZ, Big Switch Projects, BP Solar, Delfin Lend Lease, and the City of Salisbury in association with Adelaide City Council and the Cities of Tea Tree Gully and Playford.



Adelaide Solar City consortium is one of seven consortia in Australia specially chosen for joint funding of community based energy efficiency trials, through the Australian Government's \$94 million Solar Cities program.

About Origin Energy

Origin Energy is the leading Australian integrated energy company focused on gas and oil exploration and production, power generation and energy retailing. Listed in the S&P/ASX top 20 the company has more than 5,200 employees and is a leading producer of gas in eastern Australia.

Origin is Australia's largest energy retailer servicing 4.5 million electricity, natural gas and LPG customer accounts. Origin has a strong focus on ensuring the sustainability of its operations and is the largest green energy retailer in Australia.

For more information go to www.originenergy.com.au

About UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide

UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide (UCW Adelaide) has a 100 year history of providing a range of services to a broad cross section of the South Australian Community. UCW Adelaide has a vision of "A compassionate, respectful and just community in which all people participate and flourish." Since 2004, UCW Adelaide has been working to assist people to make their energy usage more affordable.

PHOTO/VISION OPPORTUNITY:

- What:** Launch of Home Energy Assistance Program
- Where:** Northern Area Migrant Resource Centre, 28 Mary Street, Salisbury
- When:** Monday, October 24, 2011 at 10am
- Who:** Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency the Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Mayor of Playford Glenn Docherty and Adelaide Solar City Program Manager Dario De Bortoli.
- Opportunity:** Mark Dreyfus QC MP will welcome the first recipient of the Home Energy Assistance Program and provide him with an energy efficiency pack.

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*Available to electricity account holders in the Adelaide Solar City trial area who are eligible for, or hold either a Centrelink Low Income Health Care Card **or** a Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card. Not available to participants of the Home Energy Measure Trial. Participants must agree to take part in research to help assess household energy savings. This involves completing two surveys regarding energy use, and providing consent for Origin to access your electricity and natural gas bill data until 30 June 2013 and share this data and your responses to the surveys with the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and members of the Adelaide Solar City consortium for reporting purposes.